

"exocellulase", and 14

N.E. page 23, line 43, please change "Bacillus subtilis" to
"Thermomonospora fusca."

REMARKS

The present application is the U.S. national phase of a PCT application. The claims and specification of the PCT application were amended during the Chapter II phase before the International Patent Examining Authority. Specifically, substitute pages 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18, and 29, which revised the specification and claims, were submitted. Furthermore, Applicants previously submitted a Preliminary Amendment on October 8, 1999 revising the claims to comply with U.S. practice.

The above-requested amendments are offered in order to correct typographical and grammatical errors, errors caused in translation of the priority documents, and to comport the specification to U.S. practice. Accordingly, these amendments present no new matter, and do not effect the scope of the present invention. For example, the last three amendments merely make the language of the specification which is ⁱⁿ reference to Table 4 match the disclosure set forth in ^{that} ~~Table~~ ⁱⁿ table rather than Table 3. Other changes make the disclosure more logical to the reader. For example, the change of ¹ ~~2~~ ² ~~3~~ "clogged" to "partially clogged" on page 12 makes explicit ¹ ~~2~~ ² ~~3~~ that which clearly was implicit. Moreover, the change of "an expert" to "one of ordinary skill in the art", merely reflects the phrase, specific to U.S. patent practice, used to describe one competent to practice the present invention versus "an expert" which is synonymous in the practice of other countries under the Patent Cooperation Treaty. The support for, and reasoning behind, the other above-requested amendments will be similarly clear to the Examiner.

In view of the above, the requested amendments to the specification are supported by the specification as filed and do not represent new matter. Moreover, based on the voluntary and non-substantive nature of the requested amendments, they

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should not be considered to affect the scope of the present invention in any manner whatsoever.

The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Len S. Smith, Reg. No. 43,139
One of the Attorneys for Applicants
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: December 14, 1999

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: December 14, 1999

J. Mikitauch